

Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 19 July 1990

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Employment steady — female unemployment rises



June labour force estimates show little change in employment. Compared with May, estimates for female unemployment and the unemployment rate rose, while those for males were steady.

Seasonally adjusted, total employment in June showed a small rise compared with May 1990 (up by 3,000 to 7,906,100). There was however greater variation among some of the components, as follows:

- Male full-time employment rose by 6,000 to 4,271,100
- Male part-time employment fell by 11,000
- Female part-time employment rose by 9,100 to 1,296,500.

In June, the seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployed persons rose by 16,200 to 562,400. For males, unemployment was steady while female unemployment rose by 17,900 to 252,600. The number of females looking for full-time work rose by 18,200.

The unemployment rate in June was 6.6 per cent compared with 6.5 per cent in May. For males, the unemployment rate was steady at 6.3 per cent and for females it rose by 0.5 percentage points to 7.2 per cent.

The seasonally adjusted labour force participation rate was 63.9 per cent in June, compared with 63.8 per cent in May. The male participation rate fell by 0.2 percentage points to 75.6 per cent while the female participation rate rose by 0.3 percentage points to 52.4 per cent. This is the highest participation rate for females recorded by the survey.

LABOUR FORCE ESTIMATES Seasonally adjusted

	Employed			Unemployment rate — per cent —	Participation rate
	Full-time workers — '000 —	Part-time workers — '000 —	Total employed		
1990 —					
March	6,184.1	1,632.9	7,816.9	510.0	6.1
April	6,196.6	1,664.4	7,861.0	520.4	6.2
May	6,237.9	1,665.2	7,903.1	546.1	6.5
June	6,242.7	1,663.4	7,906.1	562.4	6.6

For further information, order the publication *The Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary (6202.0)*, or contact Don Clark on (06) 252 6525.

High growth in overseas tourism



In April 1990, 181,100 overseas visitors arrived in Australia for short-term visits and 193,400 Australian residents departed for short-term trips overseas, continuing recent firm upward trends for both.

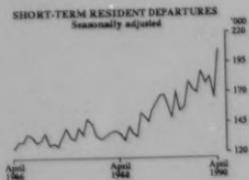
These figures are considerably higher than those for April 1989 with visitor arrivals up 13 per cent and resident departures up 26 per cent.

The major source countries of overseas visitors were New Zealand with 35,400 (20% of total), Japan with 35,000 (19%), the U.K. and Ireland with 27,900 (15%) and the U.S.A. with 20,400 (11%).

Compared with April 1989, visitor arrivals from Japan, U.K. and Ireland, and New Zealand all showed increases (24%, 19% and 7% respectively), while arrivals from the U.S.A. fell by 14 per cent.

The most popular destinations of Australian residents departing for overseas visits were the U.K. and Ireland (15% of the total), New Zealand (14%), the U.S.A. (13%), Indonesia (6%) and Hong Kong and Singapore (5% each).

Over the twelve months to April, Australian residents on short-term visits to the U.S.A. increased by 48 per cent, to Indonesia by 43 per cent, to New Zealand by 34 per cent, and to the U.K. and Ireland by 16 per cent.



SHORT-TERM OVERSEAS TRAVELLERS
April, 1990

<i>Selected countries</i>	<i>Visitor arrivals</i>		<i>Resident departures</i>	
	'000	Per cent	'000	Per cent
New Zealand	35.4	20	28.0	14
Japan	35.0	19	4.3	2
U.K. and Ireland	27.9	15	28.6	15
U.S.A.	20.4	11	24.5	13
Indonesia	3.2	2	12.6	6
Singapore	5.6	3	10.1	5
Hong Kong	4.8	3	10.0	5
Other	48.8	27	75.3	40
<i>All countries</i>	181.1	100	193.4	100

For further information, order the publication Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia (3401.0), or contact Mrs Jennie Widdowson on (06) 252 6671.

Housing finance recovers in May



Secured housing finance commitments, which fell sharply in April 1990, staged a modest recovery in May.

The seasonally adjusted figures show that the level of lending commitments in May was \$1,689.3 million, up \$181.2 million (12.0%) on April. Compared with May 1989, however, lending commitments were down \$125.2 million (6.9%).

Monthly housing finance statistics are very volatile — so much so that trend estimates are not published for the immediate past three months.

The trend estimates for February 1990 were still showing an increase (albeit a smaller one) for the fifth successive month.

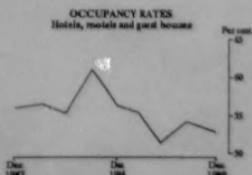
As the table below shows, lending commitments for the purchase of newly erected dwellings showed by far the biggest relative increase but remained easily the smallest component of the housing finance market.

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS, MAY 1990
Seasonally adjusted

Purpose of commitment	\$ million	Percentage change from	
		Previous month	Corresponding month of previous year
Construction of dwellings	296.7	7.4	-13.1
Purchase of newly erected dwellings	106.9	22.2	38.3
Purchase of established dwellings	1,285.7	12.4	-7.9
Total	1,689.3	12.0	-6.9

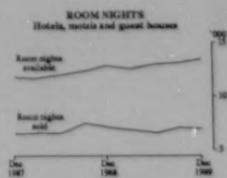
For further information, order the publication *Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia (5609.0)*, or contact Derek Pike on (06) 252 7117.

Tourist accommodation occupancy falls



Occupancy rates for hotels, motels and guest houses fell to 52.9 per cent in the December quarter 1989 from 56.3 per cent in the same quarter of 1988, and 54.2 per cent in the September quarter 1989.

Takings from accommodation in hotels, motels and guest houses increased marginally (by 0.6%) from the December quarter 1988, but fell by \$7.2 million (1.3%) compared with the September quarter 1989.



The fall between the September and December quarters resulted from an increase in the number of room nights available of 2.3 per cent and a fall in the number of room nights sold of 1.1 per cent.

TOURIST ACCOMMODATION Hotels, motels and guest houses

	December quarter		Change
	1988	1989	
Room nights available ('000)	12,817	13,424	4.7%
Room nights sold ('000)	7,144	7,010	-1.9%
Room occupancy rate (%)	56.3	52.9	-3.4%
Takings from accommodation (\$m)	529	532	0.6%

Occupancy rates in the December quarter for holiday flats, units and houses dropped to 50.1 per cent and, for short-term caravan parks, increased to 27.8 per cent.

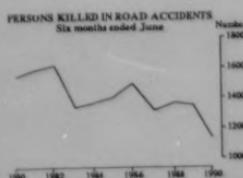
For further information, order the publication *Tourist Accommodation, Australia (8635.0)*, or contact George Webb on (06) 252 5452.

Road deaths — low figures continue

The number of road accident deaths in Australia continues at a low level despite an increase in June of 11.8 per cent over the 187 deaths recorded in May.

The 209 deaths recorded in June was the second lowest total for that month since the series began in 1970.

In the year to date, 216 fewer persons have been killed on Australian roads than for the same period last year (see table and graph). This is the lowest number of deaths for any six month period since the series began in 1970.



PERSONS KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENTS Six months ended June 1990

	Number of fatalities	Percentage change from corresponding six months in 1989
New South Wales	373	-15
Victoria	303	-28
Queensland	181	2
South Australia	99	-12
Western Australia	103	-4
Tasmania	37	-27
Northern Territory	32	14
Australian Capital Territory	7	-59
<i>Australia</i>	1,135	-16

All the week's releases: 11 to 17 July

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- through its bookshops
- by mail order (including subscription)
- by facsimile
- electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

ABS Central Office

- PO BOX 10
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ABS State Offices

- NSW** (02) 268 4611
Vic. (03) 615 7000
Qld (07) 222 6351
WA (09) 323 5140
SA (08) 237 7100
Tas. (002) 20 5800
NT (089) 81 3456

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

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General

- Year Book Australia, 1990* (1301.0; \$64.95)
Monthly Summary of Statistics, Aust., July 1990 (1304.0; \$17.50)
Statistics Weekly, 12 July 1990 (1318.0; \$3.50)
Territory Business Indicators, July 1990 (1307.7; \$3.00) — new issue

Demography

- Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Aust., April 1990* (3401.0; \$5.00)
Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Aust., March Qtr 1990 (3402.0; \$11.50)

Social statistics

- Law and Order, Qld, 1988-89* (4502.3; \$16.00)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

- Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Aust., May 1990* (5609.0; \$8.00)
Commercial Finance, Aust., March 1990 (5643.0; \$5.00)
Local Government, Qld, 1988-89 (5502.3; \$16.00)

Labour statistics and prices

- The Labour Force, Aust., June 1990, Preliminary* (6202.0; \$8.50)
The Labour Force, Aust. — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, June 1990 (6271.0; \$60.00)
Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Aust., May 1990 (6312.0; \$8.50)

Agriculture

- Shearing and Wool Production Forecast, Aust., 1990-91, Preliminary* (7210.0; \$3.30)
Summary of Crops, NSW, 1988-89 (7330.1; \$17.30) — new issue
Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, NSW, 1988-89 (7501.1; \$13.50)
Livestock Products — Meat, Qld, May 1990 (7204.3; \$3.30)

Secondary industry and distribution

- Production of Fibres, Yarns, Fabrics, Bedding and Floor Coverings, Aust., March 1990* (8360.0; \$8.50)
Production of Metal Products, Aust., April 1990 (8367.0; \$4.50)
Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, May 1990 (8504.0; \$5.00)
Tourist Accommodation, Aust., December Qtr 1989 (8635.0; \$9.00)
Building Activity, Aust., March Qtr 1990 (8752.0; \$12.50)
Tourist Accommodation, NSW, March Qtr 1990 (8635.1; \$8.60)
Tourist Accommodation, Vic., March Qtr 1990 (8635.2; \$8.60)
Building Approvals, Qld, May 1990 (8731.3; \$8.50)
Building Approvals — Private Sector, Perth Statistical Division, June 1990 (8732.5; \$3.00)
Tourist Accommodation, SA, March Qtr 1990 (8635.4; \$8.50)
Building Activity, SA, March Qtr 1990 (8752.4; \$8.00)
Building Approvals, Tas., May 1990 (8731.6; \$8.50)
Building Activity, Tas., March Qtr 1990 (8752.6; \$8.00)

Transport

- Shipping and Air Cargo Commodity Statistics, Aust., September Qtr 1989* (9206.0; \$12.50)
Motor Vehicle Registrations, Aust., May 1990 (9303.0; \$9.00)
Road Traffic Accidents Involving Fatalities, Aust., June 1990 (9401.0; \$4.00)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 31 July 1990

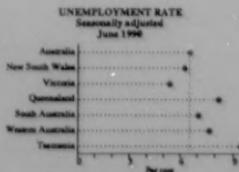
- [18] Retail Trade, Australia, May 1990 (8501.0; \$8.50)
- [23] Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia, May 1990
(6354.0; \$10.00)
- Export Price Index, Australia, May 1990 (6405.0; \$5.00)
- [26] Production Statistics, Australia, Preliminary, June 1990
(8301.0; \$5.00)
- Building Approvals, Australia, June 1990 (8731.0; \$8.50)
- Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, Preliminary,
June 1990 (9301.0; \$4.00)
- [27] Balance of Payments, Australia, June 1990 (5301.0; \$12.00)
- Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House
Building, Eight Capital Cities, May 1990 (6407.0; \$9.00)
- Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State
Capital Cities and Canberra, May 1990 (6408.0; \$3.75)
- [30] Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries,
Australia, May 1990 (6411.0; \$8.50)
- Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry,
Australia, May 1990 (6412.0; \$6.00)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to
17 July 1990

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Dec. qtr 89)*	0.6	5.0	27.4	24.3	-6.9	-34.5	n.a.	n.a.	4.4
Retail turnover (Apr. 90) (trend estimate)	8.8	4.5	7.9	5.7	6.6	9.6	n.a.	8.8	6.9
New motor vehicle registrations (May 90)*	14.3	35.3	10.6	1.4	-8.2	n.a.	5.4	3.4	14.2
Number of dwelling unit approvals (May 90)	-18.4	-32.1	-29.8	7.6	-31.5	-25.1	63.0	9.7	-24.2
Value of total building work done (Dec. qtr)	20.3	13.7	15.6	23.4	24.1	9.1	15.9	5.6	17.6
Employed persons (June 90)*	1.9	2.4	3.7	2.4	2.7	4.0	-2.3	1.3	2.4
Capital city consumer price index (Mar. qtr 90)	9.1	8.7	7.8	6.9	9.1	7.2	6.2	8.3	8.6
Average weekly earnings (full- time adult ordinary time) (February 90)	8.0	6.4	5.1	7.5	4.5	7.3	4.8	6.4	6.6
Population (Dec. 89)	0.9	1.3	3.1	1.1	2.8	0.9	-0.1	2.2	1.6
Guest nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc (Dec. qtr 89)	1.3	-4.7	-8.7	10.6	0.7	-11.2	-19.6	-8.5	-2.9

* Seasonally adjusted for States (but not Territories).



The latest ...

Key national indicators - consolidated to 17 July 1990

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				Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
		Period		Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
National production							
Gross domestic product	— current prices	\$m	Mar. qr 90	89,263	94,113	2.3	9.8
	— 1984-85 prices			62,050	65,441	1.8	4.4
Industrial activity							
New capital expenditure	— current prices	\$m	Mar. qr 90	6,200	6,995	- 1.5	- 2.4
	— 1984-85 prices			4,657	5,244	- 2.9	- 8.1
Expected new capital expenditure		Three months to June 90		8,040	n.a.	n.a.	- 4.8
Retail turnover	— current prices (e)	"	Apr. 90	6,618	7,104	1.6	7.7
	— 1984-85 prices	"	Mar. qr 90	14,013	14,836	0.0	1.4
New motor vehicle registrations	no.	"	May 90	60,353	54,255	0.5	14.2
Dwelling unit approvals				13,003	11,465	+ 4.3	- 25.9
Value of all building approvals		\$m	"	2,587	2,243	+ 12.8	- 14.6
Value of total building work done	— current prices	"	Mar. qr 90	6,922	7,562	- 2.0	5.8
	— 1984-85 prices	"	"	4,429	4,839	- 3.0	- 2.3
Manufacturers' sales		"	Mar. qr 90	33,133	36,124	2.4	8.3
Expected manufacturers' sales	"	Three months to June 90		36,461	n.a.	n.a.	6.3
Labour							
Employed persons	'000	June 90		7,910.0	7,906.1	0.0	2.4
Unemployment rate †	%	"		6.4	6.6	0.1	0.6
Participation rate †	%	"		63.8	63.8	0.1	0.9
Job vacancies	'000	Feb. 90		60.9	56.1	- 15.0	- 15.9
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours	"		1.4	1.4	- 8.7	- 3.5
Prices, profits and wages							
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0	Mar. qr 90		204.1	n.a.	1.7	8.6
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0	Mar. 90		119.9	n.a.	- 1.3	2.0
Price index of vehicles produced by manufacturing industry	1968-69 = 100.0	Mar. 90		571.5	n.a.	0.7	6.6
Company profits before income tax	\$m	Mar. qr 90		3,668	4,633	9.0	2.0
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)	\$	Feb. 90		524.70	n.a.	1.6	6.6
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)							
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	May 90		15.00	n.a.	- 0.1	- 3.2
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"		13.50	n.a.	- 0.3	- 0.4
Balance of payments							
Exports of merchandise	\$m	May 90		3,936	3,798	- 7.0	1.0
Imports of merchandise	"	"		4,115	3,822	- 5.8	- 11.9
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"		- 179	- 24	n.a.	95.6
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"		- 458	- 279	- 22.9	70.0
Balance on current account (c)	"	"		- 1,550	- 1,343	0.4	28.1
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0	Mar. qr 90		n.a.	104.0	- 4.9	- 5.9
Foreign investment							
Net foreign debt	\$m	31 Mar. 90		123,570	n.a.	5.3	15.3
Net foreign liabilities	"	"		163,453	n.a.	2.8	17.5
Exchange rates (monthly average)							
SUS	per \$A	May 1970 = 100.0		0.7618	n.a.	- 0.3	- 1.5
Trade weighted index	"	"		59.8	n.a.	- 1.3	0.3
Other indicators							
Population (resident at end of qr)	million	Dec. 89		16.9	n.a.	0.4	1.6
Overseas visitors	'000	Apr. 90		181	195	8.8	10.5

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures released Wednesday, 18 July 1990.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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